

SHINING TIME STATION

"YOU CAN'T KID A KIDDER"

BY

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From characters and storylines created by  
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SCENE 1  
(MAINSET)

(MORNING. STACY IS OPENING FOR BUSINESS. A BIG CALENDAR SITS ON DESK, SHOWING MARCH 30; SHE TEARS IT OFF, CRUMPLES AND DISCARDS IT, REVEALING MARCH 31. SHE BUSIES HERSELF WITH DESK WORK FOR A BEAT, THEN THE PHONE RINGS. SHE ANSWERS)

STACY:

Shining Time Station...  
Good morning, Mr. King...  
No, Schemer isn't in yet... you need to review his lease for his arcade? I think there's a copy in the files... yes, and we'll see you later...  
You're welcome.

(SHE HANGS UP AND CROSSES TO BILLY'S OFFICE, ENTERS. A BEAT OF SILENCE. THEN DAN, KARA AND BECKY ENTER FROM PLATFORM IN MID-CONVERSATION)

DAN:

I'm telling you, we're in big trouble. Tomorrow is April Fool's day and that's Schemer's favorite day.

KARA:

What will he do?

DAN:

He'll go totally crazy with practical jokes. Squirters and buzzers and trick gum and whoopee cushions --

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

KARA:

Maybe we should stay  
away.

DAN:

Or...

(HE THINKS, FLIPPING CALENDAR  
PAGES)

BECKY:

Or what?

DAN:

What if we tore this off.  
Schemer would think today  
is April Fool's Day.

BECKY:

He'd go around saying,  
April Fool! April Fool!

KARA:

And everybody would look  
at him and say, Huh?

(THEY FREEZE AS THEY HEAR, FROM  
PLATFORM--)

SCHEMER(OS):

(SINGING, SWINGING)

"I...do...  
Something to me.  
Something that simply  
misti-fiiiiiiies...me..."

(THE KIDS LOOK AT EACH OTHER. DAN  
HOLDS OUT CALENDAR, BECKY TEARS OFF  
SHEET AND HANDS IT TO KARA, WHO  
SHOVES IT INTO HER POCKET. ALL  
THEN RUN TO TICKET BOOTH, WHERE  
THEY LOOK ELABORATELY INNOCENT.  
SCHEMER ENTERS)

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

"Tell me...why should it  
be...I have the power to  
hyponotiiiiiiize me..."  
Children. Dan and Becky  
and Kara. How are we  
today?

(THEY AD LIB MUMBLES, SHRUGS --  
"OKAY," FINE," ETC. SCHEMER  
STROLLS TOWARD STACY'S DESK,  
UNDER--)

(HE STOPS, HIS ATTENTION RIVETED ON  
THE CALENDAR. HE'S TERRIFIED)

Wait a minute. What's  
that.

DAN:

What's what, Schemer?

KARA:

It's a calendar.

SCHEMER:

Exactly.

(TO HIMSELF, TENSE)

It says April the first.

(HYSTERICAL)

APRIL FOOL'S DAY! TODAY!  
NOW! IT'S APRIL FOOL'S DAY!

(CALM, CONTROLLED)

Okay. So I lost track of  
time. I'm a happy-go-  
lucky guy. These things  
happen.

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER (cont'd):

(HYSTERICAL)

Everybody'll be out to  
get me! Everything they  
say, everything they do  
-- it'll all be an  
attempt to fool Schemer!

(COLLECTS HIMSELF)

So be it. Let them. As  
of this moment, I am  
ready. It's fool or be  
fooled, and I certainly  
will.

(STACY ENTERS FROM BILLY'S OFFICE  
CARRYING SCHEMER'S LEASE)

STACY:

Oh, Schemer. Just the  
man I wanted to see --

SCHEMER:

No no no no NO, Miss  
Jones. Don't even think  
about it.

STACY:

Don't think about what?

SCHEMER:

Is that how we're playing  
it? Miss Innocence?

STACY:

I just want you to look  
at this. It's your  
lease--

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Oh is it now? Come,  
come, Miss Jones. The  
old fly-paper lease  
trick? I touch it and it  
sticks to my hands like  
glue?

STACY:

What are you talking  
about?

SCHEMER:

Schemer Rule Number One,  
Miss Jones: You can't  
kid a kidder.

(STACY WATCHES, DUMBFOUNDED, AS  
SCHEMER MOVES WARILY THROUGH  
STATION)

Yes, everything looks  
completely normal... and  
that's exactly what  
worries me -- AH- HA!

(HE SUDDENLY STARES UP AT THE  
CEILING, HANDS OUT, POISED, READY  
FOR ANYTHING. BEAT. NOTHING  
HAPPENS)

STACY:

Schemer, I don't know  
what you're up to, but  
I'd like you to look at  
this --

SCHEMER:

I'm sure you would, Miss  
Jones. But not just yet.

(HE SKULKS WARILY TOWARD PLATFORM)

STACY:

Then when?

SCENE 1 (CONT'D)

(HE STOPS, TURNS TO HER, MAKES HIS  
GRAND STATEMENT)

SCHEMER:

When I'm prepared. When  
I've got my equipment and  
my stuff. When I am  
well-armed and  
strategically ready to  
face whatever this day  
holds in store. Because  
let me assure you, Miss  
Jones: When I come back,  
I shall return.

(HE EXITS. STACY IS BAFFLED)

STACY:

He is certainly acting  
strangely. Even for him.

(THE KIDS GIGGLE AMONG THEMSELVES)

(DISSOLVE TO:)



SCENE 2  
(ARCADE)

(LATER. SCHEMER IS BEDECKED WITH PRACTICAL JOKES: SQUIRTING FLOWER, JOY BUZZER, TRICK PEN IN HIS POCKET, WEIRD HAT, ETC. HE ROOTS AROUND IN A BIG VALISE AND PULLS OUT EACH ITEM AS HE TAKES INVENTORY)

SCHEMER:

Itch powder... snapping  
gum... whoopee cushion...  
black-eye telescope...  
dribble glass... -- and  
all of it state-of-the-  
art.

(HE TAKES OUT CHATTERING TEETH,  
SETS THEM ON COUNTER.

( A WOMAN PASSENGER CROSSES TO THE  
ARCADE)

PASSENGER:

Good morning.

SCHEMER:

We'll just see what's so  
good about it, won't we?

(PASSENGER GOES TO JUKEBOX AS  
SCHEMER EYES HER SUSPICIOUSLY. SHE  
TAKES OUT NICKEL, IS ABOUT TO  
INSERT IT, WHEN SCHEMER STOPS HER)

Hey, lady! What do you  
think you're doing?

PASSENGER:

I'm putting a nickel in  
the juke box. I want to  
hear a song

SCHEMER:

And it just happens to  
be today, doesn't it?



SCENE 2 (CONT'DO

PASSENGER:

Beg pardon?

SCHEMER:

Lady, let's put our cards  
on the table, shall we?  
I know what's going on,  
and you know what's going  
on. And now you know  
that I know that you know  
that I know what's going  
on.

PASSENGER:

But what's going on?

SCHEMER:

As if you didn't know!  
Lady, it should be  
obvious by now that I  
know the score. And the  
score is, Schemer one,  
lady nothing. The  
jukebox is closed.

PASSENGER:

(SHRUGS)

Suit yourself.

(SHE STARTS TO WALK OFF. SCHEMER  
HAS A GREAT IDEA, DASHES FORWARD TO  
BLOCK HER, AND OFFERS UP THE  
SNAPPING GUM)

SCHEMER:

Just because the jukebox  
is closed doesn't mean  
you can't have a stick of  
perfectly ordinary gum.

SCENE 2 (CONT'D)

PASSENGER:

Thank you.

(SHE TAKES ONE -- A REAL ONE --  
UNWRAPS IT, PUTS IN MOUTH)

Spearmint. My favorite.

(SHE WALKS OFF. SCHEMER IS PUZZLED.  
LOOKS AT THE PACK. TAKES ONE  
HIMSELF -- WHICH CAUSES THE METAL  
BAND TO SNAP HIM ON THE FINGER. HE  
WRITHES, TRIES TO STIFLE HIS MOANS,  
AND FINALLY RUNS OUT THE PLATFORM  
EXIT, SCREAMING IN PAIN)

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 3  
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE DISGRUNTLED)

DIDI:

Can you believe Schemer?  
He thinks today's April  
Fool's Day just because  
the kids changed the  
calendar.

TITO:

And because he's out to  
trick everyone, he thinks  
everyone is out to trick  
him.

DIDI:

So we don't get to play  
that woman's song.

REX:

Maybe one of us ought to  
tell Schemer he's making  
a mistake, Tex.

TEX:

Go right ahead, Rex.

(BEAT -- THEY ALL LOOK AT EACH  
OTHER)

ALL:

Not!

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 4  
(ARCADE)

(DAY. THE KIDS ARE LOOKING AT  
SCHEMER'S OPEN BAG OF TRICKS)

DAN:

Boy, Schemer must have  
every practical joke ever  
made in here.

(MR. C. APPEARS. THE CHATTERING  
TEETH, WHICH HE DOESN'T SEE, ARE  
RIGHT BEHIND HIM)

MR. C:

Hi, kids.

KIDS:

Hi, Mr. Conductor.

(MR. C. CASUALLY SITS  
BACK. BUT HE LANDS  
ON THE TEETH. THEY START  
CHATTERING. THE VIBRATION SHAKES  
HIM OFF, AND THE TEETH START MOVING  
TOWARD HIM)

BECKY:

Look out! Here come the  
teeth!

(MR C. RUNS -- AND QUICKLY ARRIVES  
AT THE EDGE OF THE COUNTER.  
THERE'S NO WHERE ELSE TO GO. HE  
JUMPS -- AND LANDS ON A CHAIR, ON  
TOP OF A WHOOPEE CUSHION, WHICH  
MAKES THE INEVITABLE NOISES.  
THE KIDS RUSH OVER IN CONCERN. HE  
GETS UP AND COLLECTS HIMSELF)

KARA:

Are you all right?

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

That was close! I was almost chattered to death. But why is Schemer using all these tricks today? I thought tomorrow is April Fool's Day.

DAN:

It is. But we fooled him. We tore off today's page on the calendar, so he thinks today is tomorrow.

MR. C:

Did you tell Billy and Stacy?

BECKY:

We haven't told Stacy, and Billy's not here today.

(MR. C. BURSTS OUT LAUGHING)

MR. C:

So he thinks everyone's out to trick him, and everyone thinks he's even stranger than usual!

(SIMMERS DOWN)

A good laugh -- you know, isn't laughter strange? It's so much fun, but it's really not that much different from coughing, is it? Which is no fun at all.

BECKY:

I hate coughing.

SCENE 4 (CONT'D)

KARA:

Sneezing's kind of fun.

DAN:

Hiccups are okay, too.  
As long as you don't have  
to do it for the rest of  
your life.

MR. C:

The thing about laughing  
is, you can make people  
do it just by talking to  
them. Of course, it's  
important to know when,  
where, and how. When it  
comes to telling jokes,  
some times are definitely  
better than others.  
Speaking of which ..

(LOOKS AT WATCH)

.. if you want to see  
something really funny,  
take a look down the  
Anything Tunnel.

(AS THEY TURN TO RUN)

Not yet!

(LOOKS AT WATCH)

Okay. Now.

(THEY RUN TO THE TUNNEL AS WE PAN  
TO:)

SCENE 5

(ANYTHING TUNNEL / PICTURE MACHINE  
MUSIC VIDEO?  
(CUT TO)



SCENE 6  
(MAINSET)

(A BIT LATER. SCHEMER ENTERS, SHIFTY AND CAUTIOUS. SUDDENLY OVER AT THE ARCADE, HE SEES--GINNY, TRANSFERRING TOMATOES FROM A LARGE BAG TO A SMALLER ONE. HE APPROACHES HER)

SCHEMER:

Ginny, Ginny, Ginny. I don't suppose you'd care to tell me what you're really doing.

GINNY:

(KEEPS WORKING)

Just what it looks like, Schemer.

SCHEMER:

In other words, putting together some kind of exploding vegetable gag, eh? Not bad.

GINNY:

They're tomatoes. Plain and simple. I'm putting together a bag for Stacy.

SCHEMER:

Real tomatoes? Puh-leeze. Don't make me laugh.

(HE TRIGGERS A LAUGHING-VOICE DEVICE IN HIS POCKET, WHICH GOES "HA HA HA" AS GINNY GETS INSULTED)

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

GINNY:

Of course they're real,  
Schemer. And tell your  
clothes to stop laughing  
at me.

SCHEMER:

Ginny. Darling. This  
fake tomato bit is the  
oldest trick in the book.  
Shall we get it over  
with?

(TAKES A TOMATO)

One, two, three -- voila!

(HE SLAMS THE [REAL] TOMATO ON THE  
TOP OF HIS HEAD -- IT BUST AND  
DRIPS ALL OVER HIM)

GINNY:

You deliberately wasted  
a good tomato! Get out  
of here. Go pick on  
somebody else's tomatos!

SCHEMER:

Me? What about you! You  
smuggled a real tomato in  
there on purpose!

(FAKE-GRACIOUS)

But I forgive you. Let's  
shake and make up.

GINNY:

Well... okay.

(THEY SHAKE)

And get rid of that ring.  
It's awful.

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

(SHE TAKES THE BAGS AND CROSSES TO STACY AT THE MAIN DESK. SCHEMER FROWNS, LOOKS AT BUZZER ON HIS HAND. HE FIDDLES WITH IT)

SCHEMER:

It's not a ring. It's  
buzzer.

(HE HOLDS IT UP TO HIS EAR. IT GOES OFF WITH A LOUD BUZZ. HE RECOILS AND STAGGERS AROUND)

(AT MAIN DESK -- GINNY HANDS OVER THE SMALL BAG)

GINNY:

Here's your tomatoes,  
Stacy. And speaking of  
tomatoes, watch out for  
Schemer today. He's  
absolutely bananas.

(NEARBY, THE KIDS GIGGLE AMONG THEMSELVES. STACY NOTICES. THINKS, THEN MOTIONS TO THEM TO ACCOMPANY HER. GINNY, ALERT TO SOMETHING JUICY, SCURRIES AFTER)

SCENE 7  
(ARCADE)

(SCHEMER IS LUSTILY PAINTING A STRIPE OF MYSTERIOUS STICKY GOO ACROSS THE ARCADE ENTRANCE. STACY ARRIVES AND WATCHES, WITH KIDS AND GINNY IN BACKGROUND)

SCHEMER:

(SINGS TO HIMSELF; TO "APRIL IN PARIS)

"April the First in  
Shining Time Station  
Congratulations  
To-hoo-hoo MEEEE--"

STACY:

Schemer --

(SCHEMER IS STARTLED; HE JUMPS)

That doesn't look like  
paint to me.

SCHEMER:

Oh, Miss Jones. You  
almost startled me. And  
no, it isn't paint. I'm  
laying down a line of  
super-sticky space-age  
goo. So that people who  
enter the Arcade will  
find their well-shod  
tootsies stuck smack to  
the linoleum. Funny?  
Just thinking of it makes  
me laugh. Watch.

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

(HE STRIKES A POSE OF CONCENTRATION, THEN TRIGGERS THE LAUGH BOX)

STACY:

Schemer, you can't play pranks like that on our customers like this.

SCHEMER:

I am not "playing pranks."  
I'm defending myself.  
The world is crawling  
with       jokers       and  
tricksters out to get me,  
Miss Jones. I intend to  
get them first.

(FAKE-GRACIOUS)

But let's not talk about  
me. Let's talk about  
you. Miss Jones...  
lovely Miss Jones...  
you're a woman of  
impeccable taste. Might  
I maybe interest you in  
some --

(PRODUCES BOTTLE WITH A HUGE RUBBER  
SQUEEZE BALL FROM JACKET POCKET)

--       sophisticated,  
fabulous perfume?

(HE WAVES IT AROUND, BECKONS TO STACY)

Come closer. Experience  
the magic and the  
mystery.

STACY:

No, thanks, Schemer.

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Oh, don't thank me yet.  
Let me bestow on you the  
delightful and  
unforgettable essence of  
wonderful glorious --

(HE MANAGES TO SQUIRT IT ON HIM-  
SELF: A BLACK, SMELLY LIQUID)

STACY:

Schemer, I don't know  
what this is all about.  
But if we have to call  
your mother to straighten  
you out, we will.

(SHE STORMS OFF TO BILLY'S  
WORKSHOP, THE OTHERS BEHIND. [THE  
KIDS LAUGHING.] SCHEMER CALLS  
AFTER HER)

SCHEMER:

Go ahead! My mommy knows  
what day it is. Unlike  
some people.

(HE TRIGGERS THE LAUGH BOX AND LIP-  
SYNCHS THE LAUGH, AS WE --)

(CUT TO:)

SCENE 8  
(WORKSHOP)

(A BIT LATER. STACY, GINNY AND THE  
KIDS GATHER ROUND THE DESK)

STACY:

He's booby-trapping his  
own Arcade! Maybe he's  
sick with a fever or  
something.

(THE KIDS LAUGH)

GINNY:

Sick my eye. I say he's  
just finally gone wacko.

(THE KIDS LAUGH HARDER. STACY  
LOOKS QUIZZICALLY AT THEM, RISES,  
GOES TO DOOR, LOOKS OUT)

STACY:

Do you three know  
anything about this?

(KIDS SHUFFLE, LOOK AT EACH OTHER,  
STALL)

Let's have it. We can't  
run the station with  
Schemer acting so  
strangely.

DAN:

He thinks today is April  
Fool's Day.

KARA:

So he's trying to trick  
everyone else before they  
trick him.

STACY:

But why would he think  
that? April Fool's Day  
isn't until tomorrow.



SCENE 8 (CONT'D)

BECKY:

We tore today's date off  
your calendar.

(THE ADULTS ALL LOOK AT EACH OTHER.  
COMPREHENSION DAWNS)

GINNY:

Well shut my mouth and  
paint me purple.

STACY:

That's not very nice,  
kids.

DAN:

We never really said  
it was April Fools Day.

KARA:

If Schemer asked us, we  
would have told the  
truth.

BECKY:

Besides, nobody's played  
tricks on him. He's  
doing all this crazy  
stuff himself.

GINNY:

And it looks like he's  
about to do it again.

SCENE 9  
(ARCADE/MAINSET)

(FELIX IS AT THE JUKEBOX,  
DIGGING FOR A NICKEL, JUST AS HE'S  
ABOUT TO INSERT IT, SCHEMER APPEARS  
AND PLUCKS IN FROM HIS HAND)

SCHEMER:

Felix? Please.

FELIX:

Hey! What's the idea,  
Schemer?

SCHEMER:

Money patrol. Weeding  
out fake-o money like this.

(TOSSES IT OVER HIS SHOULDER)

Face it, pal. You are  
dealing with a master.

FELIX:

There's nothing wrong  
with that nickel. Are  
you feeling all right?

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Never better. What's my secret? Simple. I take the time to stop and smell the roses. Or the petunias, the begonias, whatever this is. Care to join me?

(HE GESTURES TOWARD SQUIRT-FLOWER ON HIS LAPEL, AIMS IT AT FELIX, AND FIRES -- RIGHT INTO SCHEMER'S EYE. HE STAGGERS, REELS AROUND.

I'm all right. Everybody relax!

(HE STUMBLES AROUND UNTIL HIS FEET LAND IN THE STRIPE OF GOO ACROSS THE ARCADE ENTRANCE. HE'S STUCK --STRUGGLES, BUT CAN'T MOVE.

They've got me! They've got me!

(STACY, GINNY AND THE KIDS RUSH OUT OF THE WORKSHOP AND CLUSTER AROUND, AS DOES FELIX. SCHEMER STOPS, REGARDS THEM)

So, it's come to this. I might have known.

STACY:

Known what, Schemer.

SCHEMER:

That all of you were working together. Secretly, fiendishly -- to trick me into stepping into my own super sticky goo. Well, it won't work.

(STRUGGLES, STAYS STUCK)

Okay. it will work. But that's it! From now on, I'm wise to all of you.

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

Just guess! Just guess  
what I've got?

(PRODUCES BOTTLE FROM JACKET  
POCKET)

Ta-daa! Wait'll you hear  
what this is!

DAN:

What is it?

SCHEMER:

(SUDDENLY PARANOID)

Why should I tell you?

GINNY

Fine. Meanwhile--

(TO FELIX)

let's get him loose.

(THE TWO TAKE SCHEMER'S ARMS AND  
TRY TO LIFT HIM OFF THE GOO.  
SCHEMER RESISTS)

SCHEMER:

I'm warning you! I have a  
sprinkle can and I'm not  
afraid to use it!

(HE BRANDISHES THE BOTTLE AT THEM,  
AND COCKS IT BACK TO SPRINKLE IT AT  
THE OTHERS. BUT THE TOP FLIES OFF,  
AND THE WHOLE CAN OF POWDER FLIES  
BACK ONTO SCHEMER. HE DROPS THE  
CAN IN PANIC)

Ahh! No! I'm history!

KARA:

Why? What is that stuff?

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

STACY:

(PICKS UP CAN, READS)

Itching powder.

(SFX: TRAIN ARRIVES)

(SCHEMER STARTS A WILDLY GYRATING  
ITCH-DANCE, IN PLACE AND STILL  
STUCK TO THE FLOOR. HE SCRATCHES,  
WRITHES AS THE OTHERS STARE)

STACY:

Is there anything we can  
do?

SCHEMER:

Scratch here! And here!  
And down there! Oh,  
never mind!

(STILL SCRATCHING, HE STARTS TO  
REMOVE PIECES OF CLOTHING, FLINGING  
THEM AWAY, PAUSING FOR A SECOND AS  
THOUGH THAT DID THE TRICK, THEN  
LAUNCHING BACK INTO A FRENZY OF  
SCRATCHING. HE DROPS HIS TROUSERS,  
REVEALING HIS RED POLKA-DOTTED LONG  
JOHNS, AND SCRATCHES HIS LEGS)

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM ENTRANCE: J.B.  
KING ARRIVES, NO-NONSENSE AND  
DRESSED FOR BUSINESS. CARRIES A  
BRIEFCASE)

SCHEMER:

Well, J.B. King. So  
you're in on this, too?

KING:

I'm not in on anything.  
But I'm afraid you are in  
on something: big  
trouble!

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(DIGS IN SATCHEL)

It's about your lease.  
It's expired. If you  
want to keep running the  
Arcade, you have to sign  
a new one. Here.

(HE PRODUCES A THREE-FOOT LONG  
DOCUMENT, THRUSTS IT AT SCHEMER)

Read it carefully and  
sign on the dotted line.

(SCHEMER CANS THE LEASE QUICKLY,  
CHUCKLING)

SCHEMER:

You people must think I  
was born yesterday. Did  
you actually believe I  
would sign this phony-  
baloney piece of  
gobbledygook?

STACY:

Schemer, you're making a  
big mistake.

SCHEMER:

Oh no! Shame on me! We  
can't have that, can we?  
I'd better sign right  
away.

(TAKES PEN FROM POCKET)

How do you spell "Abraham  
Lincoln"?

KING:

Is this some kind of  
joke?

SCHEMER:

No, but this is!

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(HE LIFTS THE FILLER LEVER: INK SHOTS OUT ALL OVER KING. THE OTHERS GASP AND RECOIL AS KING SPUTTERS. SCHEMER TAKES OUT THE LAUGH BOX AND HOLDS IT OUT AS IT LAUGHS. KING FINALLY COLLECTS HIMSELF, GRABS IT, THROWS IT TO THE FLOOR)

KING:

Are you going to sign this, or do I get myself a new tenant?

SCHEMER:

Let me put it this way, Mr. J.B. King..

(SCHEMER HOLDS UP THE LEASE, THEN METHODICALLY TEARS IT INTO A HUNDRED PIECES AND TOSSES THEM INTO THE AIR. KING SNARLS, TURNS, AND STORMS OUT. STACY FOLLOWS HIM)

STACY:

Mr. King, wait! He's just kidding!

(THE KIDS LOOK AT EACH OTHER -- SCARED -- AND FOLLOW. GINNY SNORTS AND GOES, TOO. SCHEMER MANAGES TO TURN [IN PLACE] AND CALL AFTER THEM)

SCHEMER:

A-PRIL FOOL! HA HA! I guess you know what kind of man you're dealing with now.

(CUT TO:)



SCENE 10

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE DISGUSTED)

TITO:

You know, just when I  
start to feel sorry for  
Schemer, he goes too far.

TEX:

I think we ought to play  
a song, Rex.

REX:

Just like that, Tex?  
Without a nickel or  
anything?

TITO:

Great idea, boys!  
That'll drive him crazy!

DIDI:

Where's "crazy"? I never  
heard of that place  
before.

TITO:

Let's do "THIS OLD MAN".  
And let's groove it good,  
people!

(INTO PUPPET SONG: "THIS OLD MAN")

SCENE 10 CONT'D

PUPPET SONG: THIS OLD MAN

SCENE 11  
(ARCADE)

(SCHEMER HEARS THE SONG, IS DISTRESSED. HE STRUGGLES TO REACH JUKE BOX BUT REMAINS STUCK)

(INTERCUT PUPPETS AND SCHEMER UNTIL SONG ENDS)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 12  
(MAINSET)

(SOME TIME LATER. SCHEMER'S SHOES ARE EMPTY, STILL STUCK TO THE FLOOR. THE ARCADE IS A MESS. DAN, BECKY, AND KARA ARE MOPING AROUND THE MURAL SIGNAL HOUSE)

DAN:

I can't believe such a little trick could make such a big mess.

BECKY:

I feel like it's not really our fault, but...

KARA:

But it's our fault anyway. Me, too.

(THEY SIGH -- AS MR. C. APPEARS, DRESSED IN POLO ATTIRE)

MR. C:

Take it from me: polo is a good game, but riding on a squirrel isn't as easy as it looks. They keep getting distracted by acorns.

DAN:

(LACKLUSTER)

Hi, Mr. Conductor.

MR. C:

Gee, I must have the wrong location. Is this Shining Time Station, or the World Headquarters of the I.M.S.?

KIDS:

The I.M.S.?

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

The International Mopey  
Society.

KARA:

Our trick on Schemer sort  
of got of hand.

MR. C:

Things with Schemer  
usually do. What  
happened?

BECKY:

He made Mr. King mad and  
might not be able to keep  
the Arcade.

MR. C:

Well, Mr. King is an  
intelligent man. He  
knows that people  
sometimes make mistakes  
-- even railroad people.  
Remember that mixup with  
Gordon and Edward?

ALL KIDS:

No.

MR. C:

Well, you will once I  
tell you about it...

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 13

(TTE: "WRONG ROAD)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 14  
(MAINSET/ARCADE)

BECKY:

That wasn't Gordon's  
fault. His conductor  
made the mistake.

MR. C:

Right. But Gordon made  
things worse with his  
attitude.

SCHEMER(OS):

What are you looking at?  
Haven't you ever seen  
anyone in a barrel  
before?

MR. C:

Speaking of attitude,  
guess who. Excuse me  
while I excuse myself.

(MR. C DISAPPEARS)

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM -- SCHEMER  
ENTERS, DRESSED IN A BARREL [HIS  
CHANGE-MAKER SECURED TO THE FRONT],  
AND TIE. HE'S BAREFOOT. HE ENTERS  
AND GOES TO KIDS)

SCHEMER:

So, my young friends.  
Any question about who's  
kidding whom around Shining  
Time Station?

(KIDS LOOK AT EACH OTHER, AND REACH  
A DECISION)

KARA:

Schemer, we have  
something to tell you.

(ANGLE ON PLATFORM -- TWO MOVING  
MEN [IN UNIFORM] ENTER AND GO TO  
SCHEMER. ONE WHEELS A DOLLY)



SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

MOVING MAN A:

'Scuse us. You Schemer?  
This the Arcade?

SCHEMER:

Yes and yes. What can I  
do for you gentleman?

MAN A:

Nothing. Just stay out  
of the way.

(THE MEN CROSS TO THE ARCADE AND  
START TO LOAD A MACHINE ONTO THE  
DOLLY)

SCHEMER:

See that, kids? They've  
come here specifically to  
meet me and play in the  
Arcade. THAT's fame.  
Now, what did you want to  
tell me?

(THE KIDS ARE WATCHING THE MEN LOAD  
MACHINE)

DAN:

Uh... well...

(SCHEMER FOLLOWS THEIR GAZE AND  
SEES. DISTRAUGHT, HE GOES OVER)

SCHEMER:

Hey, what gives? Put  
that back.

MAN A:

Sorry, bub. We got  
orders to empty out this  
whole area.

SCHEMER:

Whose orders?

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

(MAN A PULLS YELLOW ORDER SHEET  
FROM POCKET, SHOWS SCHEMER)

MAN A:

Mr. J.B. King. You don't  
have a lease, he's taking  
back the Arcade.

(SCHEMER LOOKS ANXIOUS FOR A BEAT,  
THEN CHUCKLES)

SCHEMER:

Oh. I get it. It's a  
joke. Sure, fellas. Go  
ahead.

(THE MEN RESUME MOVING THE  
EQUIPMENT. THEY LOAD A MACHINE  
ONTO THE DOLLY, WHEEL IT PAST  
SCHEMER, LIFT IT UP THE STEPS)

DAN:

Schemer --

SCHEMER:

(TO MEN)

Tell J.B. King the joke's  
on him.

BECKY:

We tricked you.

SCHEMER:

(TO MEN)

And I'll tell you why.

KARA:

You think it's April  
Fool's Day, but it's not.

(THE MEN WHEEL THE MACHINE OUT  
TOWARD PLATFORM)

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

(TOWARD MEN; SHOUTING)

Because they tricked me.  
I think it's April Fool's  
Day, but it's not.

(BEAT; TO KIDS)

You did? I do? It  
isn't?

(BEAT; DISMISSIVE)

Get out. You did not.  
It is so.

(THE MEN RETURN, GO TO THE ARCADE,  
AND START LOADING NEXT MACHINE,  
UNDER --)

BECKY:

We tore today's date off  
of Stacy's calendar.  
April First is really  
tomorrow.

(KARA PRODUCES THE CRUMPLED PAGE  
FROM THE CALENDAR AND GIVES IT TO  
SCHEMER)

(CU -- SCHEMER STOPS COLD. THINKS.  
THEN THE AWFUL TRUTH STARTS TO  
DAWN. AFTER A FEW BEATS, HE  
SUDDENLY DASHES MADLY TO THE --)

(ARCADE, AND FLINGS HIMSELF ONTO  
THE MACHINE THE MEN HAVE LOADED  
ONTO THE DOLLY. THEY START TO  
WHEEL IT -- AND HIM -- OUT)

SCHEMER:

Stop! Please! PLEASE!  
I've been duped!

MAN A:

Sorry, pal. We got  
orders.

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

SCHEMER:

But today isn't tomorrow!  
TOMORROW is tomorrow!

(AS THEY WHEEL HIM UP THE STEPS  
TOWARD PLATFORM, STACY APPEARS FROM  
OTHER ENTRANCE. SCHEMER ADDRESSES  
HER)

Call J. B. King! Tell  
him I made a mistake!  
Tell him I didn't know  
today was today!

(SCHEMER AD LIBS HYSTERIA AS THEY  
WHEEL HIM OUT TO PLATFORM)

(THE KIDS RUN UP TO STACY)

KARA:

Stacy, we're really  
sorry.

DAN:

We let things go too far.

BECKY:

Will Schemer really lose  
the arcade?

STACY:

I don't think so. We'll  
explain to Mr. King what  
happened. Just so long  
as it doesn't happen  
again, right?

(THE KIDS NOD, AS --)

(MR. C. APPEARS IN JESTER'S MOTLEY)

STACY:

What do you think, Mr.  
Conductor? Should we  
help Schemer?

SCENE 14 (CONT'D)

MR. C:

I think so. This wasn't  
entirely his fault. But  
we better help him soon.  
So he has time to get  
ready. Like me.

DAN:

Ready for what?

(STACY SUDDENLY BURSTS OUT LAUGHING  
AND CAN'T STOP)

STACY:

For tomorrow! Which  
really is April Fool's  
Day. Schemer will have  
to go through this all  
over again!

(EVERYONE STARTS LAUGHING AS THE  
MOVING MEN ENTER FROM PLATFORM,  
SCHEMER DOGGING THEIR EVERY STEP.  
HE AGAIN TRIES TO PREVENT THEIR  
MOVING A MACHINE, AND IS DRAGGED  
OUT PAST THE OTHERS, WHO ARE STILL  
LAUGHING AS WE:)

(FADE OUT)